

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application. This Response is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed October 10, 2007. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14-30, 32-39 and 41-45 are pending. Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16-19, 21, 22, 24-27, 29, 30, 34-39 and 41-45 are rejected and 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 20, 23, 31-33, 38 and 40 are objected to. In this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 11, 16, 17, 19, 21, 24, 25, 28-30, 32, 33 and 39 have been amended, and claims 4, 6, 13, 31 and 40 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 17-19, 24, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner asserts that "According to page 6 of the Applicant's specification, it is the extension, NOT the enclosure as recited in the claim, which comprises four mutually perpendicular side walls being extended to form the intermediate column. Furthermore, it is unclear to the Examiner, how the perpendicular side walls may be extended so as to form an 'intermediate' column, rather than an 'outer' column. Correction and Clarification are required."

The Specification illustrates this feature in Figures 5 and 6. In Figure 5, the four side walls 531 of enclosure 51 are extended to form intermediate column

518. Likewise, in Figure 6, the four side walls 631 are extended to form the intermediate column.

The Specification explicitly supports this feature as follows:

"Preferably, the enclosure comprises four mutually perpendicular side walls, the four mutually perpendicular side walls being extended to comprise the intermediate column. (Page 3, lines 17-19).

Figure 5 shows a variation where the inner wall 521 is the rear wall 58, and the four side walls 531 of enclosure 51 are extended to form intermediate column 518. (Page 9, lines 1-2).

Accordingly, the Specification provides ample support for this feature in the second embodiment, illustrated at page 9 and in Figure 5.

Applicants, accordingly, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7, 11, 12, 14, 21, 27, 29, 30, 35 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shaper (U.S. Patent No.: 3,327,808, hereinafter "Shaper"). The Examiner has rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaper, claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaper in view of Button (U.S. Patent No.: 5,533,132, hereinafter "Button"), claims 16 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaper in view of Takenaka (U.S. Patent No.: 6,078,676, hereinafter "Takenaka"), claims 25, 26, 36 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Shaper in view of Tanaka, et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 5,025,474, hereinafter "Tanaka"), claims 39, 41, 42 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Poling, et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 7,039,212, hereinafter "Poling") in view of Button and claims 43 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Poling in view of Button.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 20, 23, 28, 31-33 and 40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to rewrite claim 6 in independent form including all limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims (claim 4). Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 21, 22 and 25-27 depend (directly or indirectly) from claim 1, and claim 4 has been cancelled.

Claim 29 has been amended to rewrite claim 31 in independent form including all limitations of the base claim (claim 29) and any intervening claims (none). Claims 30 and 34-38 depend (directly or indirectly) from claim 29.

Claim 39 has been amended to rewrite claim 40 in independent form including all limitations of the base claim (claim 39) and any intervening claims (none). Claims 41-45 depend (directly) from claim 39.

Applicants, accordingly, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103.

Allowed/Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has objected to 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 20, 23, 28, 31-33 and 40 but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 6, 13, 31 and 40 have been cancelled.

Claims 8 and 33 have been rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 10, 15, 20 and 23 depend (directly or indirectly) from claim 8 which, as mentioned above, has been rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 28 depends (directly) from claim 1 which, as mentioned above, has been amended to rewrite claim 6 in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 32 depends (directly) from claim 29 which, as mentioned above, has been rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Stephen M. De Clerk at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge the one-month extension fee of \$120 to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Any necessary extension of time for response not already requested is hereby requested. Please charge any corresponding fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: February 5, 2008

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